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# History Faculty Member to Reflect on Winthrop's 125 Years During Convocation

## Quick Facts

- The speech will note Winthrop's 125th anniversary as a higher education institution. Various activities are planned throughout the academic year.
- Convocation, traditionally held the day before classes begin, serves as an official welcome to new freshmen and their induction into the Winthrop community of learners.



Edward Lee

ROCK HILL, S.C. - **Dr. Edward Lee**, an associate professor in Winthrop's **Department of History** and a third-generation Winthrop graduate, will deliver the Aug. 23 **Convocation keynote** speech on "**Winthrop and the New South.**"

The speech will note **Winthrop's 125th anniversary** as a higher education institution. Various activities are planned throughout the academic year.

Lee '83 noted: "Winthrop was born 125 years ago in Columbia as a New South educational institution, led by energetic visionaries like first president **David Bancroft Johnson** and first instructor **Mary Hall Leonard**. These educators were determined that Winthrop would represent a new era of excellence and achievement. They focused, not on the conflict of the Civil War which had only ended 20 years earlier but on the dawn of a new era in our region's history."

**Convocation**, traditionally held the day before classes begin, serves as an official welcome to new freshmen and their induction into the Winthrop community of learners. Offices will close at 3:45 p.m. so that all faculty and staff will be able to attend the 4 p.m. ceremony in **Byrnes Auditorium**.

During Winthrop's Convocation ceremony, students will be welcomed to Rock Hill by **Kathy Bigham, chair of the Board of Trustees; Doug Echols, mayor of Rock Hill; Sydney Evans, chair of the Council of Student Leaders; and Marsha Bollinger, faculty representative.**

Immediately following Convocation, **President and Mrs. Anthony DiGiorgio** will lead students out of Byrnes and toward Tillman Hall in the **traditional Blue Line procession**. The community picnic will follow on the lawn in front of Tillman Hall and Margaret Nance Hall at 5 p.m. The rain location for the picnic is the West Center.

**Lee** has been a member of Winthrop's faculty since 1994 and teaches courses on South Carolina, the U.S. military, public history and teacher education. Prior to teaching at Winthrop, he taught at the University of South Carolina, University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Belmont Abbey College.

During his academic career, **Lee** has been a commentator for NBC News, National Public Radio and the regional media. A past president of the South Carolina Historical Association, **Lee** serves on the State Archives Commission and the National Register of Historical Places Review Committee. He is the author or co-author of 14 books, including "South Carolina in the Civil War" and the award-winning "Yorkville to York."

For the last nine years, **Lee** has served as **mayor of the city of York**, which is the county seat for York County.

**Lee** received his B.A. in history and political science from Presbyterian College and his master's

degree in history from Winthrop. He earned his doctorate from the University of South Carolina where he was the R. Means Davis Fellow in Southern History.

For more information about **Convocation**, contact the **Office of the President** at 803/323-4682.

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